

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeder comprising:

a sheet receptacle disposed at the flank of a main apparatus for holding sheets thereon;

a feeding device rotatably arranged at the flank for sending sheets from the sheet receptacle into the main apparatus; and

an urging mechanism for pressing the feeding ~~means~~ device by transmission of the drive force from a predetermined drive source,

wherein the feeding device is rotatably shifted between an operating position in which sheet feeding action is made and a retracted position in which the device is retracted at the flank of the main apparatus while a predetermined waiting position is disposed between the operating position and the retracted position, and the feeding device is urged by the urging mechanism, at least when set at the operating position and the waiting position and is freed from the urging of the urging mechanism when placed between the waiting position and the retracted position.

2. (Original) The sheet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein the urging mechanism has a predetermined range of play so that the rotation of the feeding device from the waiting position to the retracted position can be made within the predetermined range of play.

3. (Original) The sheet feeder according to Claim 2, wherein the urging mechanism includes a projected portion joined to one of either the drive source or the feeding device and a hollowed portion joined to the other for loosely receiving the projected portion, so as to define the predetermined range of play.

4. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising a sheet feeder according to
Claim 1.

5-12. (Cancelled)